

► Counterpoise ◀

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

September 2008

Number 9



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: September 11, 2008 7:00 pm

Table of Contents

From The President	Page 2
Meeting Minutes	Page 3
From The Vice President	Page 4
Calendar of Events	Page 4
Membership Application	Page 5
Fun Page	Page 6
Ask an Elmer	Page 7
Editor's Corner	Page 8
Public Relations	Page 8
Quote of the Month	Page 8
Joke	Page 8
Crest Radio Museum	Page 9
Down below in El Cajon	Page 10
Communication Tower Photos	Page 11
Amateur Radio at Large	Page 12
Membership	Page 13
Club Picnic Photos	Page 14
More Club Picnic Photos	Page 15

All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

WA6BGS
NEW
Communications
TOWER
DONATED BY
US NAVY!



SPEAKER:
Club ELMER John Graf WA6L
Topic: "Kit Building"

2008 Officers

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Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6ERD	Dan Severance	449-8526
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

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	KF6KE	Richard West	462-2771

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Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6ERD	Dan	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



So that is what SANDARC is all about. Thanks Mike N6OPH for a nice presentation. SANDARC does a lot of things for the local Amateur Radio Community and I can not picture San Diego's Amateur Radio scene without them.

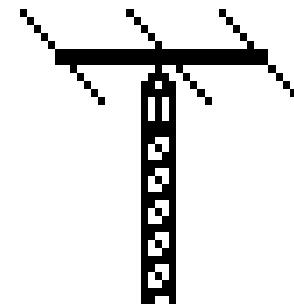
The Club's Slide Show was great! Gary did a fine job on the Field Day 2008 slide show. Yes, we were all over the News too! Go CAL Fire!

As you see on the front cover of this issue of the Counterpoise, we now have a Communication Tower Trailer donated to us by the US Navy. Steve KO4QT, Tom N6TNC, and I worked on this for over four weeks trying to make sure everything was done right the first time. We tried to dot all the i's and cross all the t's.

This is just the beginning of many great things; with this new tool, we will be able to help out the local community in the next time of need and to help get the word out that The El Cajon Amateur Radio Club is *Radio Active!*

A manual is being drawn up as you read this, and we will start training on the operation of the tower soon.

Again, a big thank you to the Navy for their kind donation!



Paul, KC6QLS
President

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
14 August 2008



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club President Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. After the pledge of allegiance, visitors were welcomed.

Mike, AE6CQ presented this month's WAMO Certificates.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was approved as published. Dan, N6ERD was not present at tonight's meeting. Mike, N6OPH was appointed to act as secretary for this meeting by Paul, KC6QLS.

TREASURER Stogie, KG6JCW read his report. It was approved as read and filed for audit. Mike, N6OPH read the auditor's report.

Letters of thanks was issued to Ken Cohn KI6HRH for his donation of the generator for Field Day.

Two presentations were made at this evening's meeting. The first one was conducted by Mike, N6OPH and his topic was SANDARC and its relationship to the San Diego Amateur Radio hobby. The next was a combination of the news coverage of the Red Flag Patrol during 4 July of this year and the next was on the ARCEC Field Day of 2008.

PRESIDENT Rios announced that the club Christmas dinner would be held on a Tuesday 16 December 2008 at the Home Towne Buffet in El Cajon.

Paul also noted that a nominations committee for "Ham of the Year" for 2008 and for election of officers needs to be formed by October 2008. Paul announced that the club has acquired a dual axel trailer and tower. The 220 machine is not functioning at the present time. Paul also noted that the annual picnic went very well with a large turnout. He is suggesting that maybe next year we could very well plan on two picnics.

COUNTERPOISE needs spotlights and also there is a new Ask an Elmer column in the *Counterpoise* answering appropriate radio questions.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: There will be an Open House on 4 October with Roxanne at Fire Station 6 in El Cajon. The El Cajon club may be helping out with EOC next year.

VICE PRESIDENT Steve, KO4QT announced that the speaker for September would be John Graf, and he will speak on kit building in anticipation of the November Home Brew Event. Kit building is a new category for the 2008 Home Brew Contest.

Ham Radio Roundup should be occurring in late September. September is "Disaster preparedness month."

SANDARC REPORT was given by Len, K5WFW. SANDARC received the final Del Mar Fair report from Paul Rios. The new location was received very well by the Ham radio public and the general public as well. The 2009 location would be the same spot as this year. Mike, N6OPH reported on the recently held NCVEC conference. It was a telephone conference that lasted three hours. The newly elected chairman of NCVEC is Larry Pollock of W5YI-VEC. The conference next year will be held in Gettysburg, PA on 24 July 2009. The next 2010 convention meeting will be held at the Denny's Restaurant at the Clairemont Square shopping center on 21 August starting at 1800 hrs for the dinner portion of the meeting and at 1900 hrs for the business portion. The convention committee still needs volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP: There were 43 members present and 7 visitors. The membership drive will be from September through December. This will be a major push by the club to gain new members and renew the old ones.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Rich, N6NKJ reported on the Red Flag Patrol and recruiting for the Red Flag Patrol. Rich also reported on the 4 July Red Flag Patrol which was also part of the newscasts in this evening's presentation.

PRIZE TABLE: Floyd, AF6BC reported on the contents of the prize table.

ARRL: Steve Early, AD6VI reported on the Ham Radio Roundup.

There being no further business before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 2136hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Maston, N6OPH
Recording Secretary for N6ERD

From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



I'd like to start off by thanking Mike Maston, N6OPH for giving us insight on what San Diego County Amateur Radio Council (SANDARC) is and does for San Diego area Club's and the community. I'd also like to thank Gary Kuske, W6GRK for putting together the slideshow (complete with music) of pictures from Field Day.

Plans are coming along for scheduling training on how to operate our new "tower trailer". Hopefully by the time our September meeting arrives, we'll have some crews already trained.

As I mentioned at our last meeting, our Club is in desperate need of a "Historian". After the break-in of our Club's storage shed, Paul, KC6QLS and I found a couple large plastic containers full of old Club documents. Some of the documents we found were "Counterpoise" newsletters dating back to the 1960's, newspaper articles, and hand written notes. All of these historical Club documents need to be preserved! Part of the Club historian's job would be to scan these documents and put them on disks. Some of this data can then be downloaded to the Club's website in PDF format at www.wa6bgs.org for all to see. I was pleasantly surprised today when I spoke with Paul KI6QDB, and he said he'd like to take on this task. The Club hasn't had a historian in years and I'd like to thank Paul for taking on this responsibility.

As most of you know, our November meeting will be our annual "homebrew" contest. This year we have added a new "kit building" category (see the Club website for rules). In preparation for the "kit building" part of the contest, John Graf, WA6L, our Club "Elmer" will be giving a presentation on "kit building" at our September meeting. Don't miss this meeting. Whether you're electronically gifted or not, you may learn something new.

73's and I'll see you at the meeting,

Steve
KO4QT

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm
Nets held on club repeaters
WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.
Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"
Mode: PSK31
Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events September 2008

Sept. 1:	2009 Membership Drive Starts
Sept. 2:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Sept. 6:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Sept. 6:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Sept. 11:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Sept. 20:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Sept. 20:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Sept. 20:	Counterpoise Dead Line

Upcoming Event Dates

Oct. 4:	Open House Fire Station 6
Nov. 13:	Home Brew Contest
Nov. 23:	Mother Goose Parade
Dec. 16:	Christmas Dinner Party

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The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterposie. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:

A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to

Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C., P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash () Check ()	Check No. Date Paid:

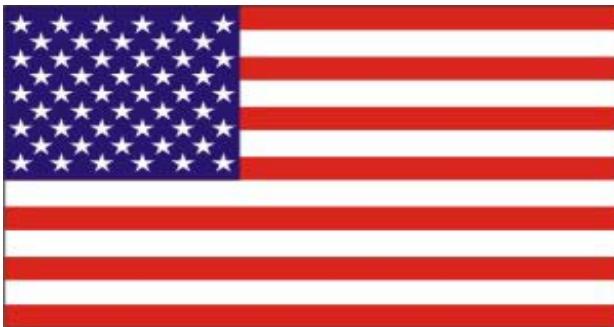
Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthday

September	2	KG6WW	Candice	Potter
September	7	KF6KE	Richard	West
September	8	KE6CBJ	Errol	Bruce
September	8	AE6CQ	Michael	Martak
September	9	KF6OXP	Fred	Myers
September	11	W6AFF	Dick	Hoolihan
September	12	N6QJ	Tom	Myrick (L)
September	12	KC6EKU	Dan	Heck
September	12	N6QU	Martin	Reid
September	15	KB6EPQ	Charles	Barstow
September	19	K6AOS	David	Norton
September	20	N6NKJ	Rich	Beisigl
September	22	W6REY	Rey	Armstrong
September	24	WA6LGV	Ralph	Landers



Brain Thinkers

2= O. in a D. P. 2 Outs in a Double Play

3= S. and Y. O. 3 Strikes and You're Out

4= B. and Y. W. 4 Balls and You Walk

----- This Months -----

2=T. the P. A. R.

4= I's in M.

18= H. on a G. C.



Word Search



- ASSEMBLING
 - CHASSIS
 - COMPETITIONS
 - COMPONENTS
 - DESIGNS
 - ELECTRONIC
 - ENTHUSIASTS
 - FREQUENCY
 - GLOWBUG
 - HEATHKIT
 - HOMEBREW
 - INTEGRATED
 - INTEREST
 - PLANS
 - PROTOTYPE
 - RECEIVERS
 - SKILL
 - TECHNICAL
 - TUBE
 - VACUUM

Last Months Word Search



ASK AN ELMER

The feed back about the new column was on a good note. We do need more people to send in their thoughts about the question of the month to help A. Ham to write the column. A. Ham appreciates your input and hopes to cover everything.

The question was, *"How do I find the right HT for me and do I need all the bells and whistles for my first radio?"* After reading the feed back, I have to say this can be an overwhelming question. To start, it all depends on your comfort level with electronic gadgets. I find there are three levels to start from if you are going out and purchasing a new HT from the store. If you know of someone that might be upgrading to the next newest HT, you may get a real good deal or pick it up for nothing. My very first HT was a Yaesu FT-202 with a speaker mic, and I had to install a tone board to get on the repeaters. It was handed to me by my Elmer. I'll tell you, my eye lit up and I could not wait until I upgraded to Tech Class to get on 2 meters.

If you have a house full of 12:00 blinking clocks and you read a manual time after time and you still just can't seem to get things to work right, then you may want to start with a single band HT with the bare minimum like the IC-T2H or the TH-K2AT. These are simple little HT's to get up and running in a matter of an hour or so. They will do everything you need to start out with Simplex work and start talking on the local box "Repeater", and later when you get more comfortable you can use them as a backup rig and maybe look into APRS "Automatic Position Reporting System" or T-Hunting "Finding Hidden Transmitters."

Now, if you have most all of your clocks set and you can read a manual and get something to work most of the time, then look into a good dual band HT with some options like the TH-D7A or a TH-F6A Tri-Band unit. Both radios will take some time to set up and get running with the onboard bells and whistles. Now, you do not have to set all of them up from the get go, but it's nice to have them just in case you need them at some point. If you feel lucky and you read the manual a few times before you attempt to program the radio, my hat is off to you. Take the easy way out and purchase the programming software or at the least find a Ham that can help you. Some Amateur Radio Operators stay at this level for many years before or if they get into the next level.

If you can program your DVD Recorder and it actually records the right program, then you should buy the unit with the bell and whistles, like one of the following; TH-D7A "APRS", VX-7R QUAD-Band or IC-T91A/AD. You will find

that you might out grow the HT very quickly and you will be looking for the next greatest HT within a year. Because you do not have any 12:00 blinking clocks and DVD's in your house, you may want to spend the extra cash and get the programming software for the HT. You will set up the radio's setting and play with the different what to view displays. You will like the extended receiver if you buy the barometric sensor pressure unit, GPS Unit or the D-Star chip at the time of purchase. I'm sure you will have them all installed by next Christmas. After you install all the toys for that radio you will go back to the software to set them up and change things from time to time.

Do not feel bad if you can't program a radio or you are not a Techno Geek; you did the hard part and passed your ticket. Also, you can always find an Elmer in the club to help you. You are just starting out in this wonderful hobby which we like to call Amateur Radio. You may become an Elmer to someone that needs help setting up their radio some day. After all, that is what it is all about.

Next question, "Now that I got the HT, what is the best Mobile Unit for me?"

73

Elmer A. Ham

Please submit your thoughts to WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net and the Elmers will answer with your feedback. Also, please send in any question that you might have.

Information and Resources:

Automatic Position Reporting System

<http://aprs.org/>

Finding Hidden Transmitters

<http://www.sdthunters.com/>

HRO "The Candy Store" <http://www.hamradio.com/>

QRZ <http://www.qrz.com/site.html>

D-Star <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/id1/default.aspx>

Options: Can be very expensive but are fun to have! Get them before you can't find them or they are discontinued.

**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

The keyboard here is burning up, and I think it might have to be replaced soon. The Ask an Elmer Column took off, and we received a lot of positive feed back. Everyone seems to likes the idea and likes to put there two cents worth in. The writers told me that they will continue this editorial for as long as they can. They also hope this helps the newer Hams with their questions and aids them in their quest for a better understanding of Amateur Radio.

If you must receive the Counterpoise by mail, please sign up on the Counterpoise by Mail List at the next meeting or contact me directly at KC6QLS@cox.net. If you wish to receive the Counterpoise by email, please let me know. Also, the Counterpoise is on our Website.

Paul, KC6QLS

Public Relations

Wow, that was some Picnic! Great job to all who helped out: the Cooks, persons that brought the food and to the T-hunters. We had 66 total, 56 members and 10 visitors. Everyone had fun, and I heard that next year the members would like to have two annual picnics. Now that's something to think about! It is good to see some of the members that can't make it to the regular club meetings, and it is great to see the wives and families too.

Ok, that's it for now. See you all at the next club event! That will be the Fire Station Six Open House in El Cajon. Come by and say, "Hi" and see the New Communication Tower Trailer.

Paul, KC6QLS

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

**Fire Station #6 Open House "ARCEC Booth"
Tower Teams Needed!**

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpoise Mail* to:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

- Proverbs [1659]

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego

Please visit

www.aprsd.org

JOKE

"I gotta 'A' in spelling."

"Silly You! There isn't any 'A' in spelling."

Lisie KI6EEK

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



The Heathkit Lunchbox Mania!

I'm sure I have mentioned the Heathkit Twoer many times before, but just this week, I finally got in the last of the line of Lunchboxes Heathkit made. It is the TENNER, a 28 MC AM transciever that matches the CB'er, Twoer, Sixer and Sixer 2. You can see them all stacked in WA6BEN's chair. I had no place to stack them neatly, it was 5 O'Clock in the morning and I needed a pic fast for this article. Then I went crazy and got out Most of the Heathkit Twoers I have, to make a group photo. You can see some of them, they are holding others up. Last count showed something like TWENTY FIVE of those things. WHY 25? Cause I am NUTS about them, thats why!

Everyone has their favorite radio. And in 1968, this was mine. It was almost like a HT, only bigger. You could work around the city with just a vertical in the air, though everyone used Horizontal polarization. So Most used Halos if they didn't have a beam up. But you could work locally very nicely with just a coathanger stuck in the back socket. Heathkit Twoers were good for about a watt output, though they claimed 5W input. Not very good efficiency! The Lunchbox line all used Super-regenerative receivers, which were very sensitive, but terrible in tuning. But back then, there wasn't that much QRM. This was before the FM repeater craze. Novices could do 2 meter AM, so Heathkit sold a billion of them. I have bought half of them back, it seems. Notice the Tuning dial.on the pic of the Twoer by itself. Yeppers, all 4 megs are tuned on a ½ turn of the dial! Thats is FAST tuning! So the Receiver was pretty bad when more than a couple signals were on the band at once. One of the weird features of the Twoers was that they put out a strong signal on Receive! So I could tell when local hams had their Twoers on and were monitoring. Most Twoers were highly modified, so what I have strived for is to locate and restore Twoers to completely STOCK mint condition. The one you see here is that way, absolutely new in every way, just as it was in 1968! Thats why I have 25

of them. I buy more to harvest parts to make the ones I have closer to Mint condition. I have brought some of these to club meetings in the past to astonish the new hams. They actually WORK! Like a giant HT!!

They use crystals for transmit, which were originally inside the case. Of course, that was an extremely poor design, so most hams mounted a crystal socket on the front panel. Notice the long knob on the lower right. That is the PTT button. Pushed up, it would lock into transmit, pushed down it was momentary. That was also a pain, for most Hams like PTT on the Mic. Heathkit used these little Turner mikes, which, by the way, seem to go for more on Ebay than the whole rest of the radio. Consequently, most Twoers listed are missing the mic. I took a ravaged Twoer and installed a relay in it for full PTT. That was neat.

But you will see 5 different versions of the lunchbox. FIVE? Yes, the original SIXER, HW-29, used a funny frequency of crystal rather than the standard 8 MC everyone else in the world uses. So after complaints, Heathkit came out with the HW-29A that used the 8 meg rocks. The CB model was basically the same as the TENNER but with a different front panel and slightly different calibration. Once again, you tune 28 to 30 MC with a half turn of the dial! And there is no BFO, so no SSB reception. FM reception required Slope tuning, which worked but recovered audio was very low. The Tenner is the rarest of the line, and they go for a fortune when listed. I paid over \$50 for this one, and that was CHEAP! In better condition they go for over \$100! Some CLOWN erased the words "TEN", "THE TENNER" and "HW-19". I could just Kick him!!! So now, I have to find another front panel someday to replace it. But it is in perfect condition otherwise. The SIXERS were good to work DX on 6 when the sporadic E came in. The Cber would work fine for local CB contacts, but with one crystal, its pretty worthless. I have a bid on one tonight as I want to nail a new front panel to make mine perfect. Why do all the front panels look so nice? Because in each case, I polish them with Novus #2, taking off the oxidation and making them look brand new. Thats why the closeup of the Mint Twoer has a flash reflection on it. It is still legal



Continued on Page 12

Down Below in El Cajon Life Below 50 MHz

John Graf, WA6L



Stuck on a desert island . . .

I am sure you have all played the game "stuck on a desert island." The basic idea is that you have to make a list of what you would bring if you were going to be stranded for years on an uninhabited island; what music, what books, what food, etc.

Just for fun, let's ask what test equipment you would bring if you were stuck with your radio gear on a desert isle. You only get to pick five items, and they have to be the best choice to help you set up your station and keep it going. Your answer may be different, but here is mine.

Number 1: If I had to bring only one item it would be an Antenna Analyzer. If you have ever used one of these, you will wonder how you ever got along without one.

The antenna analyzer can tell you what your SWR is on your antenna system. It can check your transmission line and even measure its length and its signal loss. In addition, you can use it to measure inductance and capacitance, and measure the resonant frequency of traps, stubs, transmission lines, RF chokes, tuned circuits and baluns.

The bad news is that these analyzers are not cheap. A decent one starts at about \$250 and goes up from there. But for what they do, they are worth every penny.

Number 2: I think we can all agree that a multimeter would have to be on your list. If I could only bring two items, this would be my second.

The multimeter has many uses, but by far the two most common are measuring voltage and measuring continuity (resistance). Depending on the model and the cost, you can also measure current, and check transistors and diodes.

You don't need to spend a lot either. A useable multimeter can be had for under \$20, and you would be hard pressed to spend more than \$200 for the best and most fancy.

Number 3: I may get a bit of argument on this one, but my third choice would be a signal generator. I am not talking about the thousand-dollar models (though that would be nice!). I am talking about a very basic and very useful version.

I use one sold by Elecraft. It is a kit that you can put together in about an hour, and it is as basic as can be. It has an on-off switch and an adjustment that lets you choose either a 50mv or 1mv signal level. It outputs a basic signal at 7.040 MHz and harmonics at 14.080, 21.120, etc.

I use mine all the time. It is a great way to check your receiver sensitivity, do a quick check on frequency calibration, and make sure that your S-meter is doing its thing. You can't beat the price at \$40, and you will find yourself using it all the time.

Number 4: What else would you bring? Well, I would have to say that my next choice would be an Oscilloscope. Just like the antenna analyzer, this is one of those items that once you have it, you will wonder how you ever did without it.

Learning how to use an O'scope could be a class by itself. In fact, when I was in the Marine Corps, it was a class by itself! But you don't have to be an expert to get a lot of use out of it.

Basically, if you ever have any interest in building circuits or in troubleshooting your existing equipment, the O'scope is a requirement. It allows you to visually measure the frequency and amplitude of audio and HF signals. You can check to see what is going into your radio, what is coming out the other end, and what it is doing in the middle.

The cost of a new O'scope is prohibitive for most of us. The good news is that there are plenty of very serviceable units on the used market for reasonable prices.



Continued on Page 11

Down Below *Continued*

Number 5: Last but not least – what else would round out this collection? There are several possibilities, including a frequency counter, an RF probe, a pulse generator, or a deviation meter. But I am going to go with an external wattmeter.

Yes, most rigs have a built-in wattmeter and they are usually accurate enough. But the external wattmeter gives you much more flexibility. An external meter will allow you to test changes to your station, adjust equipment for maximum (or in the case of QRP, minimum) power, and to test power at the antenna.

So that is my list. If you are just getting into Ham Radio, perhaps this discussion will get you thinking about putting together your own collection of test equipment. If you would like to learn more about this equipment and how to use it, please let me know or tell our club Vice President that you would like to see some presentations on this subject.

73, John, WA6L



Communication Tower Photos



Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello to everyone,

I am going to write about how I became part of this great hobby/service we all are in and enjoy.

Around 1984, my late father-in-law, Dave Cathers, NV5H, came out to visit my family, and encouraged me to join the ranks of amateur radio.

Also, where I worked, the City of El Cajon, John Roessler, then KB6WB, now K6BX, kept asking me "when are you going to get rid of the chicken band."

At the time, I was a CB operator, and he kept kidding me about my CB radio. Then one day, he told me that the amateur Radio Club of El Cajon would be holding a novice class and encouraged me to get to the class, and I did. One of my instructors was Mike Garrison, then KG6VP, now AC7CK and the name of the other instructor was Jim, but I do not remember his last name.

This was, I believe, a twelve week class. At the end of the class, I did not pass my test. Needless to say, I was very discouraged and the next day at work, I gave all of my class material to John and told him to give it back to Mike and Jim so someone else could use it.

Later in the day, John saw me and said that if I still wanted to get my ticket, I could come to his house one day a week to practice my code. At this time, one general class operator could administer the novice class license. After about five or six weeks, John told me he was going to give me a practice test, and to get a clean sheet of paper, and put my name and the date on it. He then sent the code at 5 wpm. After I was finished, he checked my code and informed me I had passed my Novice 5wpm code test. I was shocked!

When I was in school, every time I had to take a test, I would tense up and not do well. This was the reason I did not pass my code test in the class.

The next hurdle was passing the written part of the Novice test, which I did only missing one question.

The other reason I wanted to write this is that John Roessler, K6BX, is moving out of the area. John was a long time member of our club and a past President of our club.

Mike Garrison was also a long time member of our club as well as a past President of our club as well.

Mike called me yesterday, August 17, 2008, and said that he had just got out of the hospital after being in there three months and is now in a wheelchair.

My father-in-law is now a SK, so I wanted to let Mike, Jim and John know just how much I appreciate all their help in getting my "ticket." If was not for these people, I would still have my CB radio.

THANK YOU GUYS. It has been a pleasure knowing you, and I have never enjoyed any hobby more than this one.

Rich, N6NKJ

CREST continued

to operate these radios, but it might make some people mad if the crystal chosen is on a repeater frequency or the AM QRMs someone. But 1 Watt isn't going to make much QRM. The Lunchboxes also could operate mobile, as there was an external VIBRATOR power supply made to match them. Ran on 6 or 12 Volts! When was the last time you saw a 6 Volt car? Even with 25 of them, I still often bid on Twoers that come on Ebay. It makes my wife MAD when I win one. "WHY DO YOU NEED ANOTHER ONE??? ISN'T 25 ENOUGH!!!!!!!" No, but maybe 100 will be. And most will be in Mint Condition as I take great love in restoring them. I have tried to fight the urge to bid on more, but I just can't hold back! Talk about an Addiction!!

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
Curator
Crest Radio Museum



Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Welcome New Members

Axel Bruderer
K16RRN WAMO # 1765

David Hendrick
K6JHD WAMO # 1766

The following badges are ready for pick up at the Next Meeting:

KF6AHX	N6FRX	KG6NDS
N6VOC	KI6NHK	KI6RVX
KG6HBX	KI6KTZ	KI6RRN
N6MTYG	KI6UYA	N6IJK

For new members who join during the year, the dues for the year they join will be prorated through December 31st of the year they join, and the next years dues will be due on December 31st of the year they join. The Dues Payment Schedule will be as follows:

Individual Dues Membership: \$18.00 per year (\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

*plus \$18.00 for the following year

Family Dues Membership: \$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$ 10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair

Our membership drive is coming up; dues may be paid at the Sept., Oct., or Nov. meeting or by mail. In order to be eligible to enter the membership drawing to be held at the Christmas Party, your individual and/or family membership dues for the year 2009 must be received and/or post marked on or before December 1, 2008 and dues for 2008 must be paid by current members. You will receive one ticket from the membership chair at the meeting when you pay your 2009 membership dues or at the Christmas Party if you pay by mail. Only one ticket will be given per individual and/or family membership. Even if you renew your 2008 membership when you pay your 2009 membership dues, you will only receive one ticket for the 2009 membership drawing. Please see the ARCEC website for more details on the 2009 Membership Drive. The drawing prize as well as the 2009 Budget will be based on the dues collected during this drive, so please renew early!

73,
Ann, KC6TBG



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ARCEC Picnic Photos



ARCEC Picnic Photos



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Is your membership ready to expire?

Membership Drive this September!

Early Bird Prize at the Christmas Dinner Party.

Present Member dues must be paid up before 2009
dues are paid. See Membership Report for details.

For Ham Radio Classes **EXTRA!!**

Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067

Please Visit Our Website at
www.WA6BGS.org

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

